

State Senator

**MARY ANN HANDLEY**

2009  
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



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## **Protecting Families, Seniors, Small Businesses and Our Communities**

The budget battle dominated the headlines at the Capitol for much of the year. I'm glad we were able to pass a budget that closes the deficit while protecting Connecticut families from the recession. We cut spending by more than \$3 billion, made smart investments in our economy. As the recession ends, I will continue working to help stabilize Connecticut's economy and grow jobs.



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**MY PRIORITY:**

**Protecting Families, Seniors,  
Small Businesses and Our Communities**

## **The Fight for a Fair Budget**

In September, the General Assembly and Governor Rell agreed on a budget for the next two years. The compromise budget includes more than \$3 billion in spending cuts—the largest reduction in state history. We did it by cutting costs in every agency and all parts of government.

At the same time, we were able to protect middle-class families, the elderly, children and the poor from devastating cuts to critical services. Thanks to Democrats' efforts, the LIFE STAR medical helicopter will continue to save lives and college students will have access to financial aid.

Democrats also made the tax code fairer for working families and the middle class by raising revenues from joint filers making more than \$1 million a year.

The budget isn't perfect but it will help stabilize Connecticut's economy and help families survive this difficult time.

## **Small Businesses: The Backbone of Connecticut's Economy**

This past legislative session we took important steps to help protect small businesses and their workers from the recession.

A recession is the wrong time to eliminate state support for small businesses. That's why we opposed efforts to shut down business incubators, economic assistance grants and supply-chain initiatives—all of which help businesses boost productivity and grow jobs.

Additionally, we addressed one of the largest challenges facing small businesses—the cost of health care. We passed a bill to give businesses access to the state health insurance pool, lowering premiums and saving employees and employers money. Unfortunately the governor vetoed this bill.